

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00984 121440Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 /040 W

-----122721 121457Z /45

R 111159Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5123

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 984

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DISAPPEARANCE OF BRITISH SUBJECT MARK ELIAS

REF: KIGALI 979

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, THIS EMBASSY HAS UNTIL NOW KEPT OFFICIAL HANDS OFF ELIAS CASE ON BASIS HIS BRITISH NATIONALITY AND OUR SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED PERSONAL INTEREST IN HIS FATE. WE UNDERSTAND HMG HAS ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS, NOTABLY FRENCH EMBASSY KAMPALA, BUT HAS HAD NO SUCCESS.

2. I WONDER NOW WHETHER WE HAVE NOT BEEN REMISS IN FAILING OURSELVES TO PRESS FOR INFO ON ELIAS' FATE. AFTER ALL, AS SET FORWARD BY WASHINGTON, OUR HR POLICY DOES NOT RPT NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHTS OF AMCITS AND OF OTHERS, AND THOSE OF ELIAS--A VERY DECENT AND THOROUGHLY INNOCENT FELLOW AS FAR AS I AM AWARE--HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN GROSSLY VIOLATED.

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3. THREE MONTHS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE LAST CONTACT BETWEEN ELIAS IN KIAMPALA AND MRS. WITT AT THIS EMBASSY. THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO CONFIRMED WORD OF HIS WHEREABOUTS OR WELL-BEING IN INTERIM, ALTHOUGH RUMORS ABOUND OF HIS HAVING BEEN IMPRISONED AND/OR EXECUTED BY AMIN'S GOONS. ELIAS' WIFE AND SISTER (IN LONDON), AND DAUGHTERS (IN CANADA), AS WELL AS

MRS. WITT HERSELF, HAVE MADE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN
INFO, THROUGH HMG, FRG, SWISS, AND UNHRC, SO FAR TO NO AVAIL.

4. UNLESS DEPT OBJECTS, I PROPOSE TO PUT QUESTION OF ELIAS'
WHEREABOUTS TO UGANDAN CHARGE HERE, THOUGH I DOUBT THIS WILL
PROVE FRUITFUL. (SUCH A MOVE COULD OF COURSE REINFORCE
UGANDAN SUSPICIONS OF ELIAS' SUPPOSED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY
ON OUR BEHALF.)

5. CAN WE--SHOULDN'T WE--PROCEED BY OTHER MEANS AS WELL TO
PROBE FATE OF THIS GOOD FRIEND OF U.S.? PLEASE ADVISE.

6. DRAFTER: AMB.
CRIGLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KIGALI00984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0263
Format: TEL
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770872/aaaacjeh.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1d0ea45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 KIGALI 979
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1634915
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: DISAPPEARANCE OF BRITISH SUBJECT MARK ELIAS
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, UG, UK, US, (ELIAS, MARK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1d0ea45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009